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REMARKSSummary of the Office Action.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 24 and 25 were pending. Claims 1 has not been examined as they are drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 2-5, 7-17, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from Maddox U.S. Patent No. 1,340,630 ("Maddox") in view of Picolet et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,492,225.

The Drawings have been objected to as including text "rigid segment", flexible segment" and "compressible padding."

Applicant's ReplyDrawings

Applicant is preparing new drawing sheets as requested in the Office Action, and will shortly submit them to the Examiner. Applicant will appreciate the Examiner's patience.

Prior art rejections

Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

Applicant has amended claim 1 so that it depends from independent claim 24. Similarly, claims 2, 4, and 11-12 have been amended to depend from independent claim 24.

Claim 24

Claim 24 has been amended to include the feature that the immobilization device is "a universal tool for a variety of different types of joint injuries in pre-

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hospital care situations," for example, "for many types of injuries to other body joints, such as the knee, hip, elbow, ankle or wrist. (See specification, second to last sentence of ¶[0007], ¶[0020], ¶[0025], and ¶[0030]).

In particular, claim 24 includes the limitation "[that] wherein apparatus components including the plate and hinge dimensions and orientation are configured so that the apparatus is a universal tool for immobilizing any one of different body parts including a shoulder, elbow, knee, wrist and hip corresponding to different types of joint injuries."

Applicant submits that at least this limitation of claim 24 is not shown, taught, suggested or motivated by the combination of Maddox and Picolet when viewed by a person of ordinary skill. Accordingly, claim 24 is non-obvious and patentable over the cited art.

Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 25

Applicant has amended claims 1-5 and 7-12 for clarity, and so that they now depend from allowable claim 24. These dependent claims are patentable over the combination of Maddox and Picolet for at least the same reasons as parent claim 24.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, the applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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